

## Agricultural and Domestic.

### WOODEN FENCES.

A correspondent of the *Central* writes in reference to the permanence of wooden fences.—It seems to me that your correspondent H. of the 20th inst., has taken rather extreme views in relation to fencing. It is true, as he says, that there has been little improvement in this matter for near a century; although there have been various modifications in the construction of wooden fences, but generally eventuating in expensive failures, and soon east miles. After all, simplicity must be the rule among farmers in these matters, as well as in others. Anything involving much mechanical labor is in general to be avoided. All motions and tomes made in building wooden fences, while it consumes time, tends to rapid decay, unless kept thoroughly-painted, which is expensive and laborious. So also of materials requiring to be hauled, the cost of iron being very destructive to wood when exposed to weather. These considerations have doubtless induced the continuance of the old post and rail and zig-zag fence, which last is by far the most generally used on farms here. Nor do we think it so expensive as your correspondent H. seems to think. According to his view, a rail or log fence lasts only about ten years. That is quite a mistake, and can scarcely be said of fences built of the poorest materials. I will give a few instances which have fallen under my immediate observation. More than fifty years ago, my father had a new partition rail fence made across a field, about forty rods in length, of chestnut rails, set in the zig-zag form on stones, drawn from the fields, about eighteen inches high. This same fence is now standing, the foundation and lower tiers of rails having never been changed. In making this kind of fence, we usually select the largest and best split rails for the lower portions of the fence, and as we come toward the top lighter and poorer materials are used, generally ending with a round pole, termed a rider, on the top of the stakes. Such materials, of course, do not last so long. The top, therefore, of the fence named has had a few rails replaced in repairing. Now I have no reason to believe that the most of this fence will not last until the close of the present century. I am quite sure that much of it would be sound and good at the expiration of that time, could the growth of bushes and running vines be kept down; more especially ground ivy, which is prone to many if handled, and which sometimes almost covers the fence. These pests get among the cobblestones carted from the fields; in preparation for mowing, and thrown under the fence, and are very difficult to extricate; so much so that they are allowed to run rampant. As to the great waste of land occupied in making this kind of fence, I would remark that it is not all waste. Grass grows freely along these fences, wherever there is a spot unoccupied, especially adjoining the plowed lands under good culture. Again in dry seasons, sometimes immediately after mowing, the stubble, and every pasture lot is dry and withered. All along these fences is a mat of green herbage, which sheep and cattle will greedily eat, not excepting the poisonous ivy and even the leaves of that cattle-epas, the common wild cherry, which throws up numerous succulent sprouts wherever it is cut down. Again in this part of the country we find that apple trees, with a little attention, after being planted at convenient distances in the joints of this fence, grow well and bear freely, the form of this fence affording a convenient chance to plant the trees along the joints without being in the way of working the land. Where fruit trees are not planted, a growth of red cedar generally springs up, becoming in a few years valuable for various purposes of building and affording a fine protection to fields of winter wheat. Last of all, when these unsightly fences are repaired, the decayed rails are still worth something. They make very good summer fires, especially for baking, as our good house-keepers can testify. So much for zig-zag fence; now for posts and rails.

We make the following extract from an address upon the agricultural prospects of New England, recently delivered by the Hon. Daniel Needham, at Stanstead, Canada East. Mr. Needham it will be recollect, is corresponding Secy of the Vermont State Agricultural Society, practical farmer, and a man of strong common sense.—The facts which he presents are interesting, and well deserve the reflection of our ambitious young farmers who are attracted to large numbers every year to the great west.

"When the young man leaves his New England home, and with wife and children emigrates to the far West, what influence move him? Is it not the bold statement that the virgin soil of that distant land readily produces fifty bushels of corn and forty bushels of wheat to the acre? Is it not for this prospect, that he leaves all his old associations, the land of his birth, the land of abundant schools and churches, the land of good roads and great comforts, to suffer privations in a new country, where school-houses, churches and roads are to be built? The question he should put to himself is, will it better my condition by emigrating? If the land is more productive of corn and wheat in Illinois, Wisconsin and other Western State, is it more productive of money? A hunting fifty bushels of corn can be raised to the acre, do we not raise that quantity on many farms in New England? According to the census of 1850, fifty bushels was the average of the State of Connecticut. But if you raise fifty bushels, how much money will it bring? At this very moment, within sixty miles of Chicago, corn can be bought for twelve cents a bushel. Fifty bushels at twelve cents a bushel, will give you six dollars; and in order to produce this paltry sum of money you must plow, harrow, hoe, harvest, shell and market an acre of corn. What will you here bring you in Vermont? Corn is now seventy cents a bushel; and if you raise fifty bushels, as you should if you are a good farmer, your net will produce you thirty-five dollars.

How is it with wheat? Wheat is now worth within sixty miles of Chicago, sixty cents a bushel. The average crop of Illinois is less than twenty bushels; and for your acre you will realize less than twelve dollars. In Vermont, our average crop is seventeen bushels, which to-day is worth one dollar and twenty cents a bushel, yielding for the acre, twenty dollars and forty cents.

But suppose you convert your corn into pork, will that help the matter? Pork has been selling this entire winter within six miles of Chicago, at two cents a pound.

The man who leaves Vermont and goes West to get rich by agricultural industry, makes a sad mistake. Northern men have gone West and secured wealth, but it has been by fortunate investments in real estate. Such men can be found in every school district of our State, men who by fortunate speculations have amassed wealth. But the time is far in the future, when men, by legitimate agricultural industry in the West, will reach the coveted goal of wealth."

### SUCCESS IN LIFE.

A shrewd, intelligent man of the world, and one, too, who had been eminently successful—for from a small beginning he had risen to the highest place in the department to which he had been attached, and made the fortunes of his whole family, brothers, sons and nephews, as well as his own—once said to me:—"The longer I live, the more convinced I am that over-sensitivity is a great mistake in a public man." He might have said in all men who desire to succeed in life. Now I wish to be understood that what is expressed here by the word "over-sensitivity," does not signify over-scrupulousness. Be as scrupulous as you will, but do not be over-sensitive on the score of pride of vanity, or dormant egotism. Every successful man, you may be sure, has had much to mortify him in the course of his career. He has borne many rebuffs; he has sustained many failures. What if men do not understand you, are not inclined to encourage you, and exercise the privilege of age or superior position—bear with it all. Juveniles, your time will come; you may take your change out of the world, when you are a little older. Bah! how does it hurt you? Hard words break no bones," saith the proverb. And they break no spirit that is not of the feeblest. The world laughs at your failures—what then? Try again, and perhaps they will not laugh. Try once more, and perhaps it will be your turn to laugh. Who he wins may laugh, saith another proverb. If you have the right stuff in you, you will not be put down. If we have the right stuff in us, these failures at the outset are grand materials of success. To the feeble they are, of course, stumbling blocks. The wretched weakling goes no farther; he lies behind and subsides into life of failure. And so by this great winnowing process the number of athletes in the great Olympic of life, is restricted to a few, and there is a clear space in the arena. There is scarcely an old man amongst us—an old and successful man—who will not willingly admit that he was made by his failures, and that what he once thought his hard fate was in reality his good fortune. And thou, my bright-faced, bright-witted child, who thinkest thou cannot carry Parnassus by storm, learn to possess thy soul in patience. If success were to crown thine efforts now, where would be the great success of the hereafter. It is the brave resolution to do better next time, that lays the substrata of all greatness.

One more instance. In the year 1800 the house which I occupy was built, and the fences around the dwelling were erected of squared locust posts 3 by 2½ inches, yellow or pitch pine railing, white or soft pine footboards and pickets. Last summer (1861) about half of it was taken down, and a new fence built, with the exception of the pickets, which were found in so good a state that they again were nearly all worked in the fence. There had been a little repair in some portions of the old fence during the period—some two or three posts and a rail or two had given out. The other half is still standing. This fence was kept painted during the time for the most part, although some intervals of exposure intervened."

About the year 1816 a post and rail fence was erected on the farm; since that period coming into possession and wishing to erect a substantial stone wall in its stead, I had it moved and put up a division fence on another portion of the farm, where it stands and promises to remain in good condition for many years to come, nearly all the original rails still remaining, a few only having been broken or decayed. This kind of fence is not quite as durable as the zig-zag, however. The posts were of Long Island laurel, none of them having been replaced.

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When God has joined together in the holy bonds of matrimony, let no washing days, boiled dinners, buttonless shirts, or heelless stockings, put a dent.

Prudence says Wise, Floyd, Pillow and Price are the four rulers of rubed dust.

Let Jeff Davis just wait till he gets to the end of the rope, and then he can have full swing.

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